

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Yugoslavia

CONFIDENTIAL

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SUBJECT Resistance to the Regime in Yugoslavia

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1. No armed resistance as such exists in Yugoslavia today, although certain small groups of men live in mountain hide-outs, chiefly in the Velebit mountains, in Bosnia, and in Eastern Serbia. Passive resistance, however, is widespread, and in urban areas underground organizations exist which spread the news from abroad, and inform the population as to what is happening outside the country. Leaders of these organizations are mainly members of former political parties.
2. Passive resistance among the workers consists mainly of absenteeism because of feigned illness. Absence from work has lately increased to such proportions that government authorities have been obliged to resort to severe control measures, sometimes even dismissing the workers, or sending them out on forced labor projects.
3. Most active in resistance activities are the peasants. They cultivate their land only to such extent as will allow them to live. As a result, government authorities have been obliged to institute severe controls in order to increase crop production. Peasants sabotage governmental plans by sowing seeds in inadequate soil; as a result, the summer crop of 1950 is very poor. It is estimated that this year's crop will be 30 percent below that of 1949. The effects of this form of sabotage are particularly pronounced in the city markets, where vegetables and fruits have been hard to get even at the height of the season; and if available, were so costly that few were able to afford them. As a consequence, greater starvation than in previous years is anticipated.
4. Government employees as well as laborers are engaged in passive resistance through the tactic of absenteeism excused by illness. The absence of government employees from work has become widespread, and has caused a setback in the government plans. Various punitive measures have been undertaken by government authorities, such as dismissals and forced labor work; they have not proved satisfactory. Communist Party members, who are largely semi-literate and incapable of doing administrative work, replace the dismissed employees, and as a consequence, the government administration suffers increasingly.
5. The school-age youth is very active, and offers a strong element of resistance to the regime. Because of the large amount of sabotage carried

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out by students, the authorities have been obliged to send out entire school classes to forced labor projects.

6. Because of the increasing resistance among the population, government authorities have had to become more severe. This has created greater dissatisfaction in Yugoslavia.
7. Resistance by the broad masses manifests itself largely in the increasing avoidance of the people from the various political conferences and meetings of the regime. City block leaders are obliged to go from apartment to apartment and force the populace to attend meetings. When at such meetings Party members begin to explain to the population the feats of the government which have contributed to a better living standard of the working masses, the audience burst into laughter. The speakers find themselves in the awkward position of doing nothing or of having to arrest the entire audience. As a result, meetings of this type have become less frequent.
8. When in the spring of 1950, Tito made a speech in Split, government officials undertook all possible measures to increase the attendance. To this end, travel expenses and expenses for food and lodging in Split were paid for all those living in the outskirts of Split. Over 40,000 transportation tickets were issued, but in spite of all these measures, not more than approximately thirty thousand individuals attended.

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